

Brighten Your Garden for the Birds and Bees



Ann DeBolt, Idaho Botanical Garden

WHY?

- ❖ Increases diversity, observation ability
- ❖ When done properly, might make life easier for birds
- ❖ Great way to introduce young people to nature
- ❖ The whole family can share (and neighbors too)
- ❖ Wildlife-friendly yard has never been more important - nearly 80% of wildlife habitat in the U.S. is privately owned
- ❖ 2.1 million acres/year converted to residential use
- ❖ Contribute to "citizen science" - Great Backyard Bird Count, Project Feeder Watch, Great Pollinator Project, etc.

Your backyard could be a wildlife habitat

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald, Special for USA TODAY (April 2010)

SOMERVILLE, Mass. — Wedged between train tracks and a busy thoroughfare, Jerry Lauretano's hair salon relies on berry-producing trees to attract a range of lovely birds — as well as some not-so-lovely ones.

Last winter, customers saw cardinals, robins and goldfinches. On an April morning, however, pigeons and squirrels had the yard to themselves.

"Not every square foot needs to be business, business, business," says Lauretano, whose parcel ranks among **128,000 backyards that have been certified as wildlife habitats by the National Wildlife Federation**. "People love to come here. And that fulfills your heart."

BACKYARD HABITAT ESSENTIALS

☐ Food

☐ Cover/Shelter

☐ Water

☐ Nest Sites



Purple Sage *Salvia dorrii*



Feeders are an easy way to attract birds



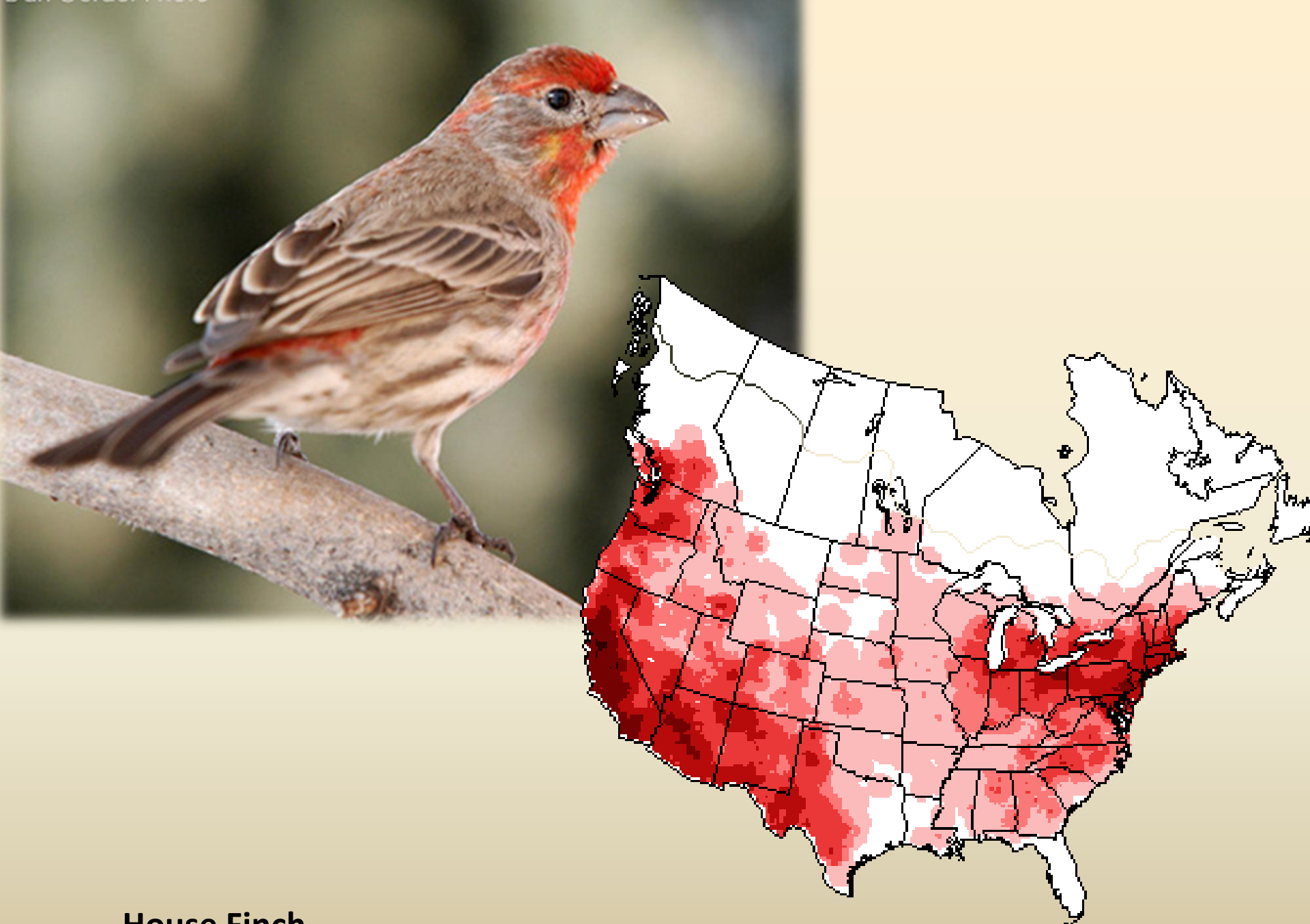
FOOD



Dark-eyed junco



FOOD



House Finch

USGS Map, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Diversity of plants provides birds/bees with a **variety of food** in the form of flower buds, fruit, seeds, nectar, and sap

Also provides a variety of insects associated with those plants



FOOD



Turn Your Yard Into a Winter Refueling Spot for Birds

January-February 2013 Audubon Magazine, S. Tweit

To survive freezing nights, many birds must sustain themselves with berries rich in fats and antioxidants

this article lists 12 top ten berry producers

Common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Drought-tolerant, craggy tree with knobby bark; fruits eaten by many bird species; attracts butterflies and moths

Skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*)

Tolerates some drought; often single-sexed colonies formed from one parent; berries high in vitamin C

Western sandcherry (*Prunus pumila* var. *besseyi*)

Sandy to clayey soils; partial shade; sprawling shrub; white flowers form cherry-like fruits in fall

Western Mountain Ash (*Sorbus sitchensis*)

Large shrub/small tree; needs moist soil; flowers white; leaves yellow to red in fall; waxwings and other birds love berries



Common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Medium sized tree to 60 feet tall
with wide spreading crown

Grown around here in parks

Native to middle and eastern U.S.

Celtis reticulata
Netleaf hackberry



Our native hackberry

10-30 feet tall, often shrubby

Long-lived

Hackberry emperor



gall psyllids (*Pachypsylla* sp., aphid-like bug)

many different birds love hackberries too!





Oakleaf sumac, Lemonade bush (*Rhus trilobata*)





3-8 feet tall deciduous shrub

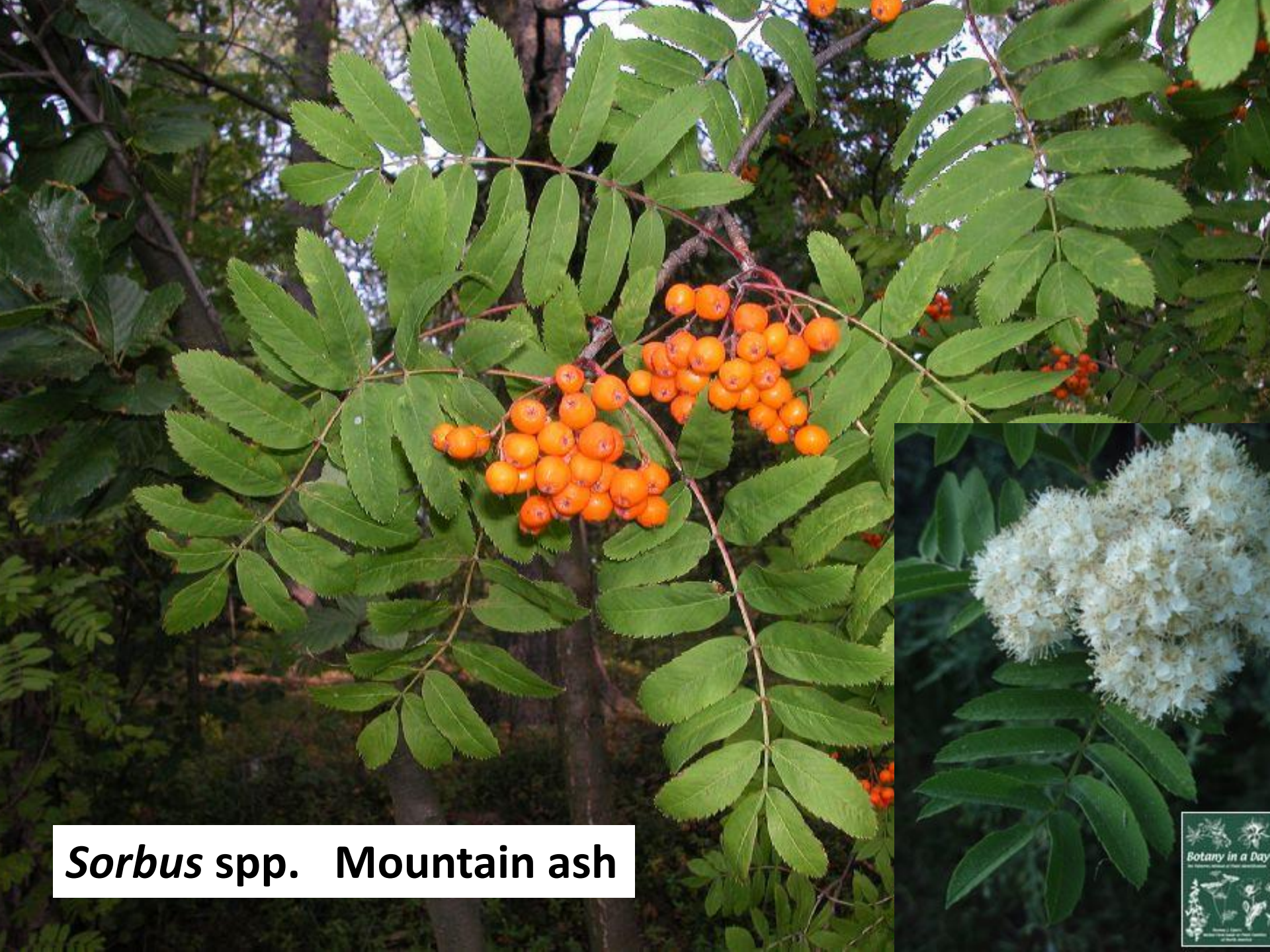
Bronze to red fall color

Drought tolerant



Western Sandcherry

Prunus besseyi



***Sorbus* spp. Mountain ash**



Plant	% Fat
Northern bayberry (<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>)	50.3%
Southern arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>)	41.3%
Gray dogwood (<i>Cornus racemosa</i>)	39.9%
Northern spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>)	33.2%
American burningbush (<i>Euonymus atropurpurea</i>)	31.2%
Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)	23.6%

Other Fruit Bearing Plants



Wax Currant, *Ribes cereum*



Golden Currant, *R. aureum*



Chokecherry

Prunus virginiana





Perennial Flower Food

Firecracker penstemon *Penstemon eatonii*



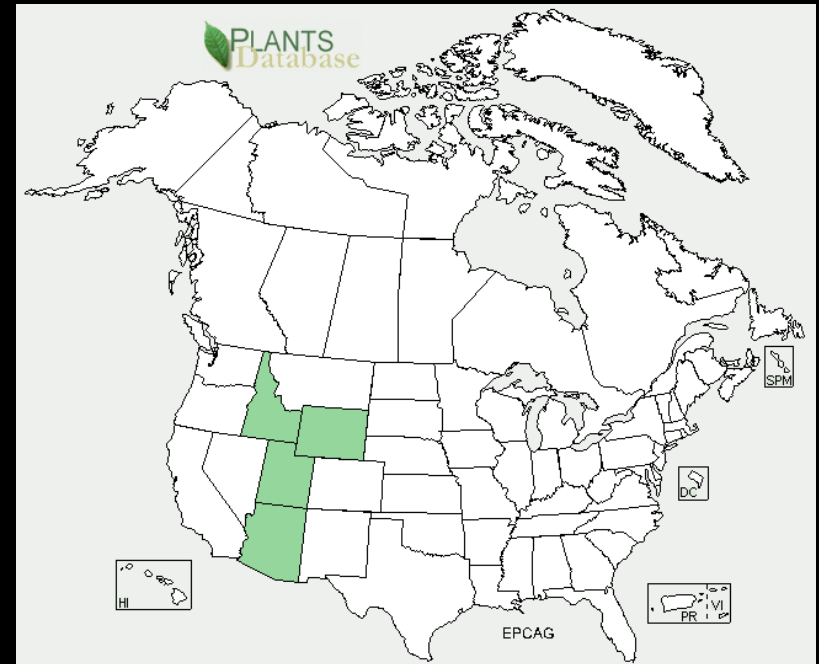


Black-chinned hummingbird



Hummingbird Trumpet
Agastache rupestris





Hummingbird trumpet

Epilobium canum ssp. *garrettii*

= *Zauschneria garrettii*

Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea







American Goldfinch

COVER/SHELTER

Plants also provide nest sites, nest material, hiding places.

Larger variety of plants, greater the variety of birds & bees your yard will attract.



Whether it is a safe place for:

- **Sleeping**
- **A protected haven from the elements**
- **A hiding place to elude predators**

or

- **A secure nesting spot.....**



Providing shelter is an important way to make your property bird and bee friendly





California quail



The larger the variety of plants you grow, the greater the variety of birds & pollinators your yard will attract



COVER/SHELTER



The background of the image is a dense, repeating pattern of small, light blue water droplets. Each droplet is slightly raised and has a subtle highlight, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The droplets are distributed evenly across the entire frame, creating a textured, aquatic feel.

WATER

Birds need water for drinking and bathing









Other Plants for Attracting Birds & Bees

Penstemon venustus Venus penstemon













Showy milkweed
Asclepias speciosa

Butterflyweed *Asclepias tuberosa*







Honeybee on saffron crocus in late October



Globemallow



In Southern Idaho, native species include:

Munro globemallow

Sphaeralcea munroana

Gooseberryleaf globemallow

S. grossulariifolia











Tufted Evening-primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*)

GREAT PLANTS FOR ATTRACTING BIRDS

(SOME PERSONAL FAVORITES)

Ash

Lilac

*Penstemon

Snowberry

*Purple coneflower

*Hackberry

Hawthorne

Maple

Trumpet vine

*Agastache

Box elder

Willow

*Golden currant

Elderberry

Serviceberry

*Oakleaf sumac

Blue spruce

* = some of the plants we have discussed

For Wildlife

- ▶ Food-producing plants
- ▶ Nectar-producing plants
- ▶ **Evergreens for thermal cover**
- ▶ Bird houses
- ▶ Let fallen trees decay
- ▶ Brush piles
- ▶ Feeders and **birdbaths**
- ▶ Create or keep **snags**



Red-breasted nuthatch



